

A RESOLUTION to designate October 1995 as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" and October 19, 1995 as "Breast Exam and Mammography Awareness Day".

WHEREAS, Breast cancer is an unfortunate epidemic that will strike one out of eight American women in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among women and is second only to lung cancer as the leading cause of cancer deaths among women nationally; and

WHEREAS, in the United States approximately 46,000 women die of breast cancer annually and over 180,000 new cases are diagnosed each year; and

WHEREAS, breast cancer is increasingly being diagnosed among women in their thirties and forties, and of these women, more than 70% exhibit none of the known risk factors; and

WHEREAS, despite over 20 years of the "war on cancer", there is still no known cause, cure or method of preventing breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, in order to identify the disease effectively, particularly among women in their twenties, thirties and forties, women must realize the importance of mammography and breast examinations; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that only 50 percent (50%) of American women have regular mammograms and breast examinations; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the incalculable emotional costs to women and their families, the direct and indirect economic costs of breast cancer are estimated at eight billion dollars (\$8,000,000) a year nationally in additional health care services and lost productivity; and

WHEREAS, heightened public awareness and education about breast cancer are crucial to the national effort to eradicate this epidemic; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of all women, men and families to join together to promote greater awareness about a disease that affects numerous Tennesseans, and recognize the need for true early detection and adequate treatment options, and the urgency of finding a cure; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That this General Assembly, in order to heighten public awareness about breast cancer, proclaims October 1995 as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we, in order to recognize that breast exams and mammography are still the primary methods of breast cancer detection available to women, and that all women are encouraged to have regular examinations, proclaim October 19, 1995, as "Breast Exam and Mammography Awareness Day".

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, That this body emphasizes that the public education efforts conducted during the month of October should be a part of an ongoing, year-round effort to raise public awareness across the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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